Child marriages

1905. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite Government's appeals and ban orders against child marriages, about 37 pairs of children, who were still in their mother's lap were married in village Dhal (Rajasthan) recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that about 50,000 heads from 53 villages were invited to witness the occasion and had community lunch and also according to a survey, about 30 per cent students of primary schools are married off in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to intervene and impose strict orders to ban child marriages throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Government of India has already enacted the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1978 fixing the minimum age for marriage for boys at 21 years and for girls at 18 years. The administration and implementation of this act is the responsibility of the State Government.

Incentives for surrendered militants of North-East

1906. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any incentives are provided to the underground militant activists of North-East to surrender;

(b) the progress of Government's rehabilitation scheme;

(c) whether Government are considering to grant only capital/ margin money to such persons in rehabilitation camps for taking up self-employment on completion of training;

(d) if so, what is the amount per head; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has introduced a scheme for Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation of militants in the North-East.

(b) As per latest information available, 2100 militants have surrendered under this Scheme. 437 surrendered militants have been trained/undergoing training under this scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Scheme envisages only assistance for self-employment training and the surrendered militants are to apply for self-employment schemes as per normal rules applicable.

Cross-border crimes in North-East

1907. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stand taken by Government of Bhutan against the ULFA and NDFB camps in its territory;

(b) what are the concrete steps taken by Government to stop cross-border crimes in the North-East; and

(c) the steps taken to seal the Indo-Bhutan border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHIR I.D. SWAMI): (a) The presence of militants on Bhutanese territory has been a subject of discussion with Bhutan. Both sides share concern on this issue. The Government of Bhutan has reiterated that they would not allow their territory to be misused against the interests of India. The 78th session of the National Assembly in Bhutan passed a resolution on July 4, 2000 reiterating its decisions of 77th session to resolve the problem by a peaceful dialogue with leaders of militants to leave Bhutan and in event such dialogue does not succeed, authorising the Government to use